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II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 6-18, 20-24, 28-38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 57, 58 AND 60-62 UNDER 35 USC 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH, AS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENT.

The Examiner states that these claims include limitations regarding the specific sealed PTFE film and elastomer balloons having burst pressures and/or compaction ratios that are not detailed in the specification, and noted further that specific examples having the claimed characteristics were not provided. The Applicants would respectfully direct the Examiner to particulars described in detail in the specification, as follows.

Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 relate to composite ePTFE film and elastomer balloons having burst pressures of at least about 5, 8, 10 and 15 atmospheres. These claims are specifically supported by Example 3 (p. 15, lines 13-14; burst pressure 150 psi, or 10 atm.), Example 5 (p. 20, lines 24-25; 19.5 atm. burst pressure), Example 7 (p. 29, lines 4-7; 22 atm.), Example 8 (p. 32, lines 26-29; 21 atm., and p. 33, lines 17-20; 15 atm) and Example 9 (p. 37, lines 19-21; 15 atm.).

Claims 6 and 7 are also dependent from claim 1 and do not add further quantitative limitations, so are consequently covered by the above arguments pertaining to claim 1.

Claims 8 and 9 also depend from claim 1; these claims respectively also require that, following inflation to 8 atm. and subsequent deflation, the balloon has a compaction ratio of at least about 0.5 and 0.6. These claims are specifically supported by Example 3 (p. 15, lines 19-20; compaction ratio 0.94), Example 5 (p. 20, lines 17-18; compaction ratio 0.64); Example 7 (p. 29, lines 11-12; compaction ratio 0.94), Example 8 (p. 33, lines 1-2, compaction ratio 0.86, and lines 24-25, compaction ratio 0.90), and Example 9 (p. 37, lines 25-26, compaction ratio 0.96).

Claims 10-12 also depend from claim 1; these claims respectively also require that, following inflation to 8 atm. and subsequent deflation, the balloon has a compaction efficiency ratio of at least about 0.5 and 0.6. These claims are specifically supported by Example 3 (p. 15, lines 20-21; compaction efficiency ratio 0.93), Example 5 (p. 20, lines 17-18; compaction efficiency ratio 0.68); Example 7 (p. 29, lines 12-13; compaction efficiency ratio 0.90), Example 8 (p. 33, lines 2-3, compaction efficiency ratio 0.82, and lines 25-26, compaction efficiency ratio 0.86), and Example 9 (p. 37, lines 26-27, compaction efficiency ratio 0.88).

Claims 13 and 14 also depend from claim 1 and add no further quantitative limitations, and so are covered by the above arguments pertaining to claim 1.

Claim 15 and dependent claims 16 and 17 are directed to the same compaction efficiency ratio limitations as claims 10-12, consequently the basis for claims 15-17 is the same as described above for claims 10-12. Claim 18 depends from claim 15 and does not add further burst pressure or compaction ratio limitations.

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Claims 20-24 also depend from claim 15; of these, claims 20 and 21 add burst pressure limitations previously described in the above arguments relating to claims 1-4. Claims 22 and 23 do not add further quantitative limitations. Claim 24 adds a compaction ratio limitation addressed above with respect to the arguments directed to claims 8 and 9.

In the same fashion, all remaining rejected claims 28-38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 57, 58 and 60-62 are supported by the specification as noted above with respect to burst pressure, compaction ratio and compaction efficiency ratio.

Accordingly, it is clear that the specification well supports the claims, with examples reproducible by one skilled in the art that will achieve the claimed performance.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 6, 7, 25, 28-33, 56 AND 59 UNDER THE JUDICIALLY-CREATED DOCTRINE OF OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING.

A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith; accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

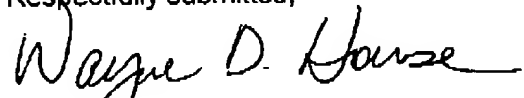
The Examiner notes that claims 39, 43 and 44 are allowed, and that claim 26 would also be patentable if the 112 rejection is overcome and if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciatively note the allowed claims and are willing to consider rewriting claim 26 as suggested should that be necessary following consideration of applicant's remarks in response to the outstanding Office Action.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that their claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reexamination and passage of the claims to issuance.

If any issues of substance are seen to remain following consideration of the arguments presented herein, in the interest of expedient resolution the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' representative at the telephone number given below, between the hours of 8AM to 5PM Mountain Standard Time.

Respectfully submitted,



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